

To: Administrator/Ex. 6 McCarthy, Gina Administrator/Ex. 6
From: Herckis, Arian
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 10:33:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Events-Navajo Nation Req

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cobbs, Chris" <Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov>
Date: August 12, 2015 at 4:04:59 PM MDT
To: "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>
Cc: "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Herckis, Arian" <Herckis.Arian@epa.gov>, "Reynolds, Thomas" <Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov>, "Mathew, Jacklyn" <Mathew.Jacklyn@epa.gov>, "Bluhm, Kate" <Bluhm.Kate@epa.gov>, "Blumenfeld, Jared" <BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV>, "McGrath, Shaun" <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Events-Navajo Nation Req

FYSA--Jackson just sent letter to me that Cong. Ann Kirkpatrick just released.

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
AVIATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

August 11, 2015

201 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361
405 NORTH BEAVER STREET #6
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86901
211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653
550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901
1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501
P.O. Box 1952
HIGHWAY 191
CHINLE, AZ 86503

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (1101A)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing to express my urgent concerns about the more than 3 million gallons of toxic wastewater that are spilling from Gold King Mine into the Animas River and now impacting the San Juan River, an important water source for Arizona's tribal and non-tribal communities, agriculture, recreation and small businesses. I share the outrage of my constituents in northern Arizona and on the Navajo Nation, where 215 miles of tribal land along the rivers could be impacted by this terrible situation.

I am also deeply concerned about the impact this contamination will have on Lake Powell and our northern Arizona communities and economy. The harmful chemicals that are moving toward Lake Powell threaten the tourism industry, local businesses, free-roaming livestock, and farmland irrigation that is so important for the livelihood of folks living in northern Arizona. It's critical that the EPA is clear and forthright about what it is doing and about the potential impact on the families, farms, livestock and environment in these communities.

On Aug. 8, the Navajo Nation declared a state of emergency in response to the potential health risks posed by contaminated water traveling toward their essential water sources. Water is life for these communities, and it is crucial that the EPA addresses their concerns and is held responsible for not only the cleanup of this contamination but also the long-term mitigation of the harm caused by this disaster. As you know, the federal government has historic obligations and responsibilities to protect our tribal nations' land and natural resources. I support any efforts by the Navajo Nation to hold the federal government legally responsible for damages caused by this spill.

I am hearing reports that this spill has already devastated many families, farms and livestock. As the congresswoman for this region, I need answers about what the EPA is doing right now to protect the public health of my constituents and to mitigate the spreading of contamination through the San Juan River and into Lake Powell.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-2101

Cell: 202-527-2854

cobbs.chris@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 10:09 AM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

The Southern Ute tribe leadership has been personally invited to the local electeds meeting in Durango.

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

Mobile: (202) 697-0208

Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 10:04 AM, Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov> wrote:

As you know the interesting part here is that there will not be a meeting with the CO delegation – since none of them are in town – from my tracking the emails. I may have that wrong.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

I would see if there are any opportunities to engage the Southern Ute tribe.

From: Cobbs, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 12:00 PM
To: Herckis, Arian
Cc: Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Mathew, Jacklyn; Bluhm, Kate; Fritz, Matthew; Blumenfeld, Jared
Subject: Re: Events-Navajo Nation Req

Driving over now...closing the loop, see below text from my conversation with Jackson. CQ = congressional quarterly

This is from Cq yesterday. Not exactly what I thought. However we assumed there would be a meeting with the CO delegation and NN Pres would like to join and see situation in CO. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-2101

Cell: 202-527-2854

cobbs.chris@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 9:29 AM, Cobbs, Chris <Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov> wrote:

Also--David, before wheels up, mentioned Cong. Lujan wanted a tour.

I told him that's not what I was tracking suggested he respond to the chain with that update. I haven't seen anything yet and he did not answer my call.

I can add him to this chain, if there is nothing separate running.

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-2101

Cell: 202-527-2854

cobbs.chris@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 9:18 AM, Cobbs, Chris <Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov> wrote:

Unless otherwise advised--Per Matt's message below, from an earlier chain, I will call him back and let him know there will be no public tour just closed door meeting and should anything change I will flag ASAP.

I planned to make tribal country my first stop in Farmington and need to return his call to lock-in my walkthrough logistics.

Chris,

I have added in Jared. You all know better than I do – my sense is that we were not doing much of a tour today – pretty much meeting with folks – which she will be doing with them tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-2101

Cell: 202-527-2854

cobbs.chris@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 9:12 AM, Herckis, Arian
<Herckis.Arian@epa.gov> wrote:

Plus Jared

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2015, at 9:11 AM, Cobbs, Chris
<Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov> wrote:

+ Tom & Melissa

We had a very short conversation and I did not ask him to
expound on which "papers".

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-2101

Cell: 202-527-2854

cobbs.chris@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 9:05 AM, Cobbs, Chris
<Cobbs.Chris@epa.gov> wrote:

I just touched down and took a call from Jackson Brossy, Navajo nation washington office exec director just reached and asked if they could join whatever tour she is doing today as the "papers" are reporting.

He said that Nn pres and vp have access to a plane and can be in Co/nm on short notice.

His info:

<mailto:Jbrossy@nnwo.org>

Personal Phone/Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: [202-564-2101](tel:202-564-2101)

Cell: [202-527-2854](tel:202-527-2854)

cobbs.chris@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 9:01 AM, Herckis, Arian
<Herckis.Arian@epa.gov> wrote:

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Sent from my iPhone

Chris M. Cobbs

Deputy for Advance

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-2101

Cell: 202-527-2854

cobbs.chris@epa.gov